

**Welcome to the Webinar!**

**Connecting with the Community:  
Learning from the Success of  
Twin Cities International  
Elementary School**

**We will be starting soon.**



# Connecting with the Community: Learning from the Success of Twin Cities International Elementary School

May 9, 2012



The National Charter School Resource Center is funded by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Innovation and Improvement and administered by American Institutes for Research, under contract number ED-04-CO-0109/0004.



# About the Resource Center

The **U.S. Department of Education** is committed to promoting effective practices, providing technical assistance, and disseminating the resources critical to ensuring the success of charter schools across the country. To that end, the Education Department, under a contract with American Institutes for Research, has developed the **National Charter School Resource Center**.

## Presenters

### **Dr. Randal Eckart**

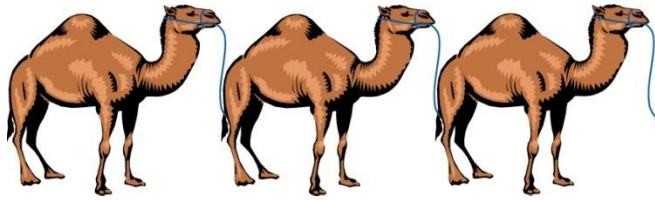
Director, Twin Cities International Elementary  
School

### **Kelli Wilson**

Assistant Director, Curriculum & Instruction

### **Jim Smith**

Data Coordinator



Twin Cities International Elementary School

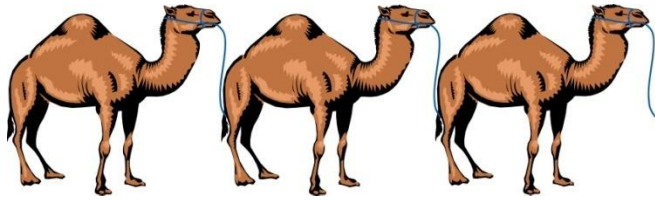
277 12<sup>th</sup> Ave N. Mpls. MN 55401

Phone 612.821.6470

Fax 612.821.6477

[www.twincitiesinternationalschool.org](http://www.twincitiesinternationalschool.org)

**Agenda:**  
Welcome  
Introductions  
Demographics & Background  
History  
Academic Data  
School Programming  
(Instructional Program, Assessment, Interventions, Professional Development)  
Parent /Community Involvement  
(Cultural Sensitivities)  
Q & A



Twin Cities International Elementary School

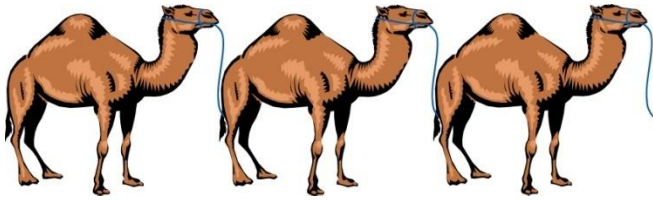
277 12<sup>th</sup> Ave N. Mpls. MN 55401

Phone 612.821.6470

Fax 612.821.6477

[www.twincitiesinternationalschool.org](http://www.twincitiesinternationalschool.org)

# Introduction



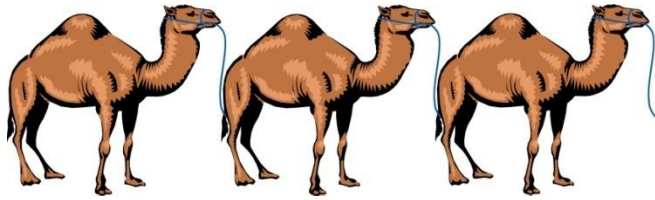
Twin Cities International Elementary School  
277 12<sup>th</sup> Ave N. Mpls. MN 55401  
Phone 612.821.6470  
Fax 612.821.6477  
[www.twincitiesinternationalschool.org](http://www.twincitiesinternationalschool.org)

## Presenters:



School Director, Randal W. Eckart Sr. Ed.D., is currently in his sixth year of employment (as Director) for the Twin Cities International Elementary School.

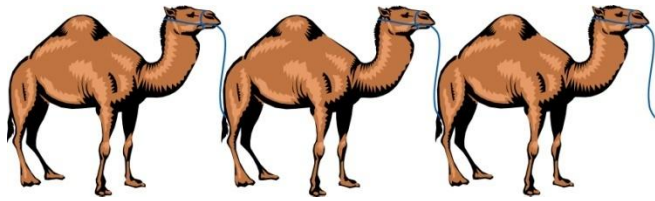
Prior to this position, Dr. Eckart was a special education teacher, a junior high principal, superintendent of three different school districts, and adjunct professor for Educational Leadership at St. Cloud State University. Dr. Eckart has a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Psychology from Roosevelt Univ. in Chicago, Bachelor of Science, Master of Science, and Specialist degrees in education from St. Cloud State Univ., and a doctorate in education from the University of North Dakota, Grand Forks. In addition, and outside of the field of education, Dr. Eckart was the Chief Operations Officer for the National Funeral Directors Association, a Chicago police officer, and the manager of several businesses in the state of Minnesota.



Twin Cities International Elementary School  
277 12<sup>th</sup> Ave N. Mpls. MN 55401  
Phone 612.821.6470  
Fax 612.821.6477  
[www.twincitiesinternationalschool.org](http://www.twincitiesinternationalschool.org)



Kelli Wilson has been a classroom teacher for 10 years and has served as the Assistant Director of Curriculum and Instruction since 2006. Kelli has worked primarily with elementary age students from kindergarten to 6<sup>th</sup> Grade in both California and Minneapolis. Kelli received her Bachelor's Degree from MN State University-Moorhead, holds a Master's of Arts Degree from Hamline University, and an Education Specialist Degree from St. Thomas University. Kelli is a licensed teacher for grades 1-6, and a licensed administrator. Kelli works very closely with all stakeholders to enhance the educational experience for the students, families and staff members at Twin Cities International Elementary School. Kelli serves as the Testing Coordinator, English Learner Coordinator, and ESEA/NCLB Title Programs Coordinator as well as designing and implementing staff development for the school.

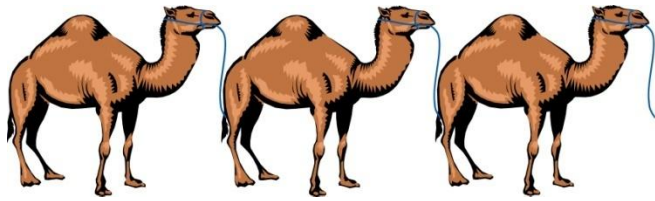


Twin Cities International Elementary School  
277 12<sup>th</sup> Ave N. Mpls. MN 55401  
Phone 612.821.6470  
Fax 612.821.6477

[www.twincitiesinternationalschool.org](http://www.twincitiesinternationalschool.org)

## **Mission Statement**

It is the mission of the Twin Cities International Elementary School to provide a rigorous education in a culturally sensitive environment. Founded by educational leaders in the East African community, this public charter school ultimately seeks to prepare students for successful and productive lives as United States citizens while allowing them to retain their unique cultural heritage.

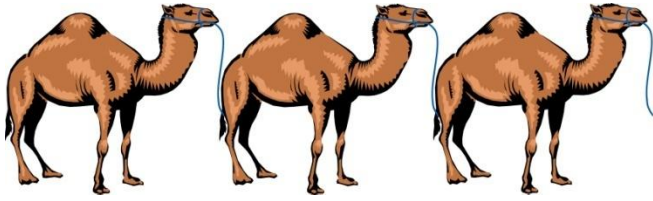


Twin Cities International Elementary School  
277 12<sup>th</sup> Ave N. Mpls. MN 55401  
Phone 612.821.6470  
Fax 612.821.6477  
[www.twincitiesinternationalschool.org](http://www.twincitiesinternationalschool.org)

### Vision Statement:

***To continuously provide and teach a model of success for each and every student!***

The Twin Cities International Elementary School envisions teaching practices as both reflective of, and responsive to the needs of all students. Through staff development, teaming and collaborative efforts, continuous improvement initiatives will be generated to ensure clear evidence to support movement toward mastery of content standards for all learners. Educational staff will utilize Individualized Student Learning Plans, the RTI model of Learning Interventions, ongoing formative assessments, and data record keeping and analysis to direct instruction that will best serve the academic needs of every student to ensure ongoing academic growth.



Twin Cities International Elementary School

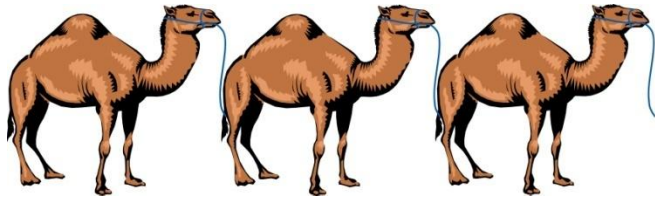
277 12<sup>th</sup> Ave N. Mpls. MN 55401

Phone 612.821.6470

Fax 612.821.6477

[www.twincitiesinternationalschool.org](http://www.twincitiesinternationalschool.org)

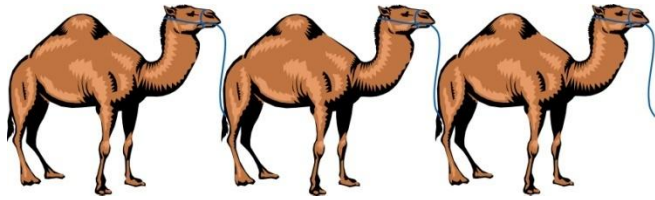
# Demographics & Background



Twin Cities International Elementary School  
277 12<sup>th</sup> Ave N. Mpls. MN 55401  
Phone 612.821.6470  
Fax 612.821.6477  
[www.twincitiesinternationalschool.org](http://www.twincitiesinternationalschool.org)

## **Demographics :**

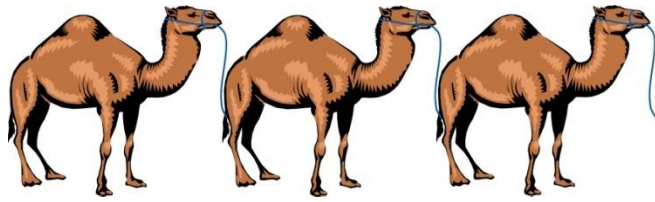
- Kindergarten through 4<sup>th</sup> grade
- Current enrollment of approximately 600 students.
- 98% East African or Middle Eastern backgrounds
- 96% qualify for free/reduced priced meals
- 91% identified as English learners
- 4% of students qualify for special education services
- 95% attendance rate.



Twin Cities International Elementary School  
277 12<sup>th</sup> Ave N. Mpls. MN 55401  
Phone 612.821.6470  
Fax 612.821.6477  
[www.twincitiesinternationalschool.org](http://www.twincitiesinternationalschool.org)

## **TIES students:**

- Speak 6 different home languages
  - Somali, Oromo, Arabic, Amharic, Urdu & English
- Were born in 20 different countries
- Come to TIES from 17 cities and 3 different counties across the metro area
- 80% of TIES students are born in the United States (1<sup>st</sup> Generation immigrants/refugees)



Twin Cities International Elementary School

277 12<sup>th</sup> Ave N. Mpls. MN 55401

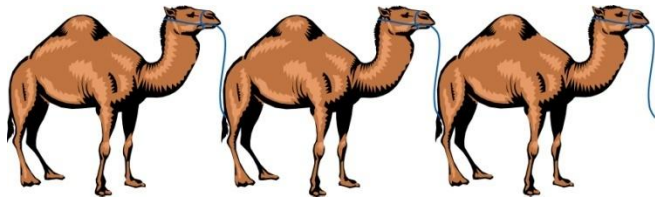
Phone 612.821.6470

Fax 612.821.6477

[www.twincitiesinternationalschool.org](http://www.twincitiesinternationalschool.org)

## School Environment

- 5 sections of each grade level
- Class sizes no greater than 25 students
- Free, full-day kindergarten
- Bilingual paraprofessional for every 2 classrooms
- Community members employed at school
- Bilingual communication techniques with families
- Full-time reading/instructional coach
- Full-time data coordinator
- Enrichment classes
- Physical education
- Media/Technology
- Arabic language
- English language services
- Special education services
- Co-teaching/collaboration methods
- After school programs
- Summer school programs
- Homework tutoring centers located within the community
- SmartBoard technology in all classrooms



Twin Cities International Elementary School

277 12<sup>th</sup> Ave N. Mpls. MN 55401

Phone 612.821.6470

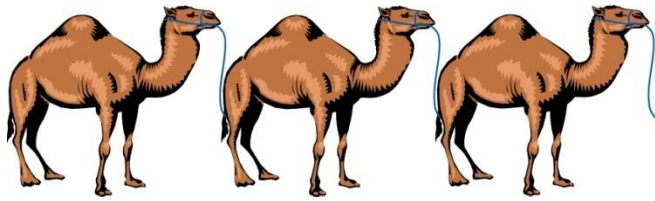
Fax 612.821.6477

[www.twincitiesinternationalschool.org](http://www.twincitiesinternationalschool.org)

## **Background:**

East Africans, mostly Somali and Oromo-speaking people, are one of the fastest growing populations in Minnesota. The Twin Cities community alone is estimated at over 50,000 and Minneapolis is home to the largest population of Somalis in North America.

As the number of Somali students in Minnesota Public Schools has increased significantly over the last ten years, large urban school districts throughout the Twin Cities region have struggled to address the needs and challenges of this new community.

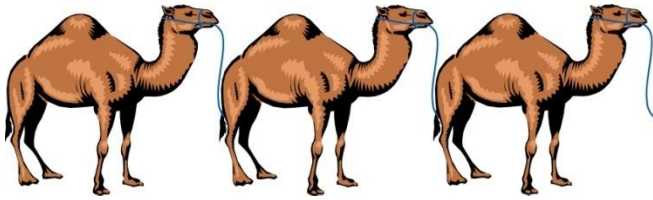


Twin Cities International Elementary School  
277 12<sup>th</sup> Ave N. Mpls. MN 55401  
Phone 612.821.6470  
Fax 612.821.6477  
[www.twincitiesinternationalschool.org](http://www.twincitiesinternationalschool.org)

East African children typically arrive in the United States with little formal schooling and enter the educational system academically behind their English-speaking, American-born peers. Their parent(s) or guardian(s) are often just learning English themselves and work multiple jobs, making it difficult to effectively supervise and help their children with homework.

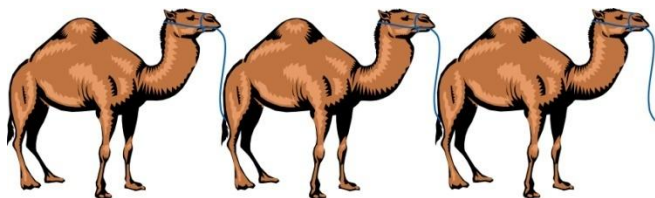
Despite many of our students being born in the United States, they still arrive at school with a significant disadvantage in their English language skills. Until recently, many students did not attend preschool programs and/or have lived outside of the United States prior to entering school.

In addition to language barriers, the American education system historically struggles to provide students from low-income families with a greater challenge to achieve academic success.



Twin Cities International Elementary School  
277 12<sup>th</sup> Ave N. Mpls. MN 55401  
Phone 612.821.6470  
Fax 612.821.6477  
[www.twincitiesinternationalschool.org](http://www.twincitiesinternationalschool.org)

In response,  
East African education leaders, alarmed that  
their children were not reaching levels of  
academic achievement necessary to lead  
successful adult lives, started a grass-roots  
initiative to create a public elementary charter  
school to meet the special needs of children in  
the East African community.



Twin Cities International Elementary School

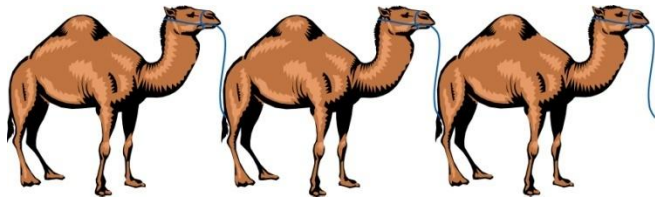
277 12<sup>th</sup> Ave N. Mpls. MN 55401

Phone 612.821.6470

Fax 612.821.6477

[www.twincitiesinternationalschool.org](http://www.twincitiesinternationalschool.org)

# History

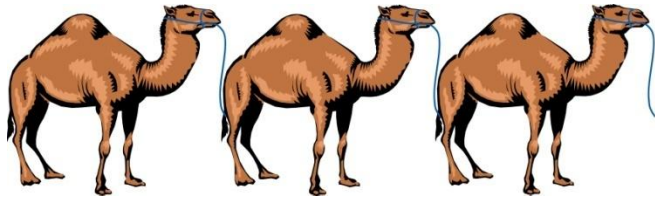


Twin Cities International Elementary School  
277 12<sup>th</sup> Ave N. Mpls. MN 55401  
Phone 612.821.6470  
Fax 612.821.6477  
[www.twincitiesinternationalschool.org](http://www.twincitiesinternationalschool.org)

## History:

Opening in 2001, TIES started with 150 students in K-6. After two building moves in the following years, TIES grew to over 500 students by 2006. Since that time, we have maintained an enrollment of approximately 600 students. TIES successfully completed its tenth year of operation during the 2010-2011 school year.

The same group of school leaders, together with the community, have come together to open a 5-8 middle school and a 9-12 high school in the past ten years. Total enrollment between the three sister schools averages approximately 1250 students.



Twin Cities International Elementary School

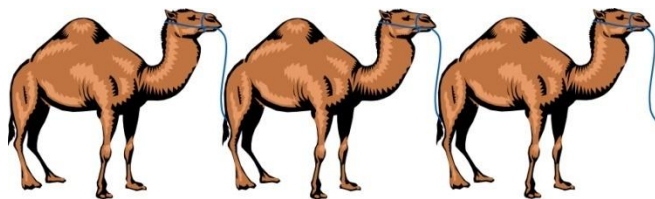
277 12<sup>th</sup> Ave N. Mpls. MN 55401

Phone 612.821.6470

Fax 612.821.6477

[www.twincitiesinternationalschool.org](http://www.twincitiesinternationalschool.org)

# Academic Data



Twin Cities International Elementary School

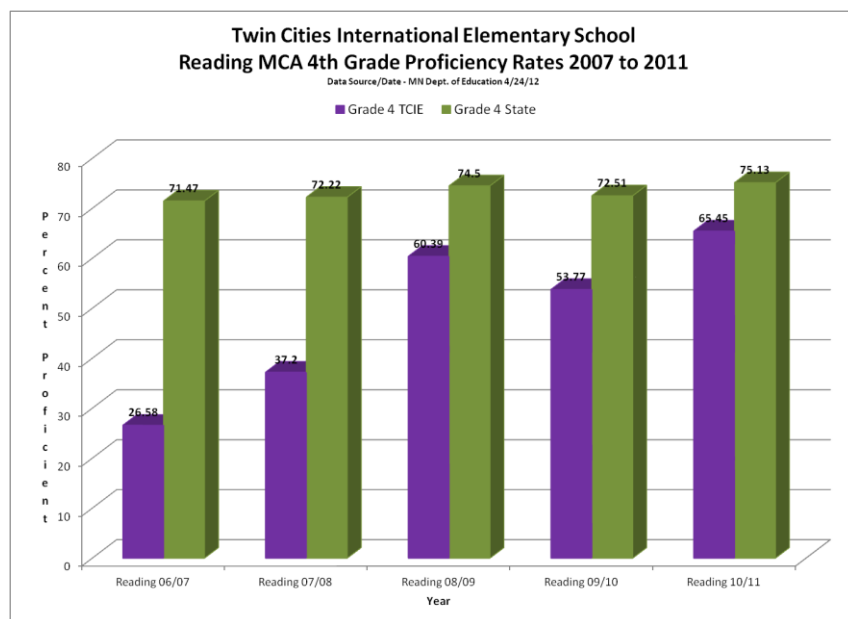
277 12<sup>th</sup> Ave N. Mpls. MN 55401

Phone 612.821.6470

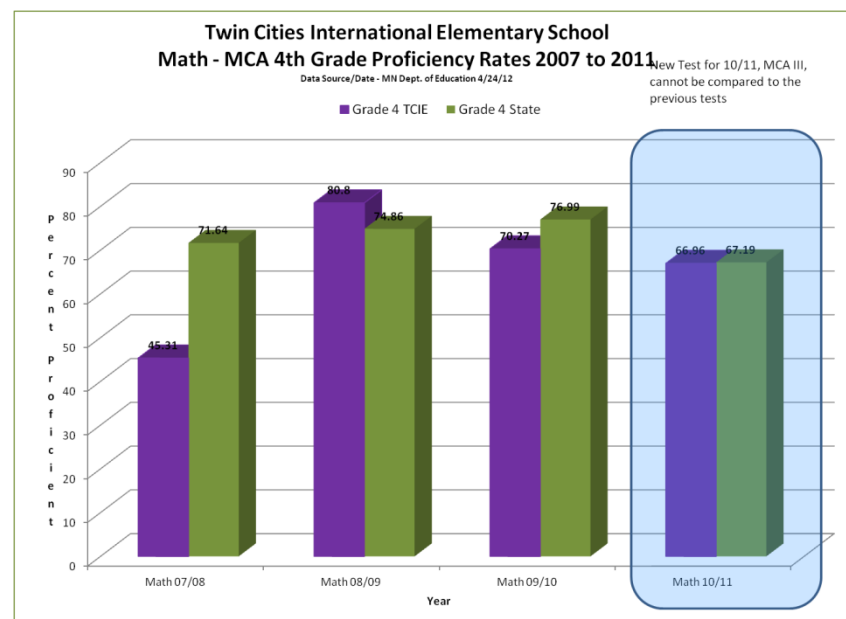
Fax 612.821.6477

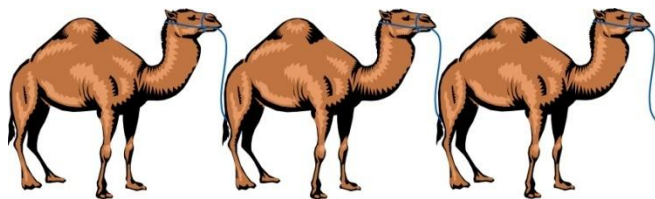
[www.twincitiesinternationalschool.org](http://www.twincitiesinternationalschool.org)

## State MCA Reading Data



## State MCA Math Data

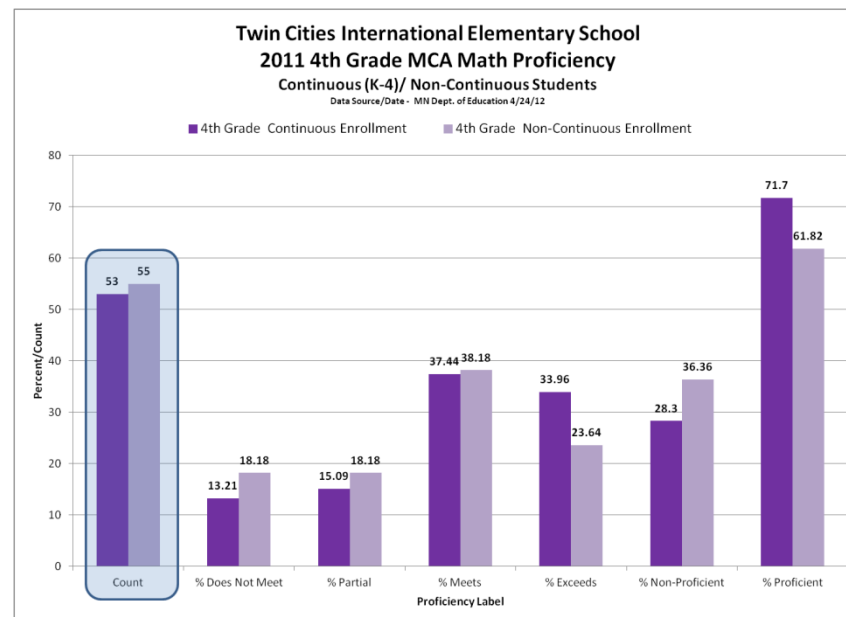
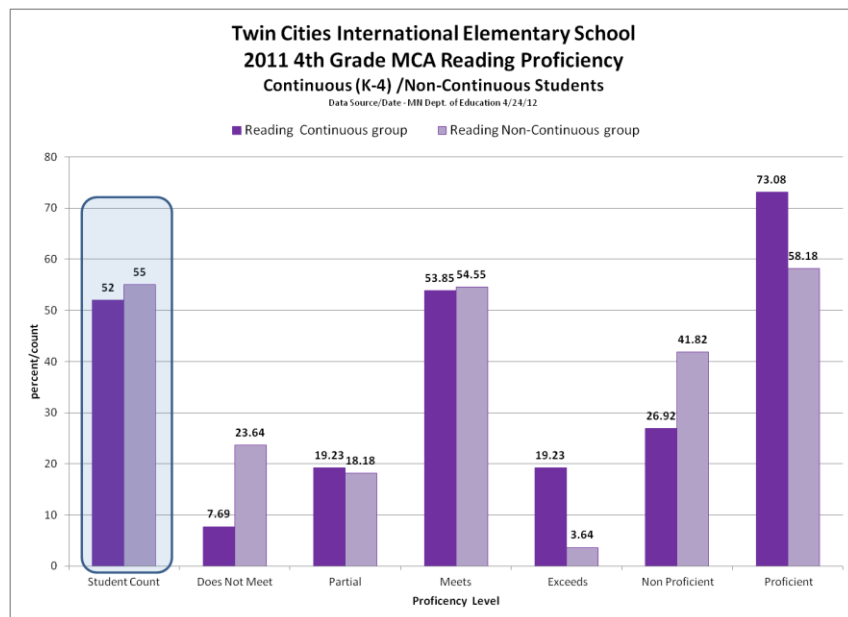




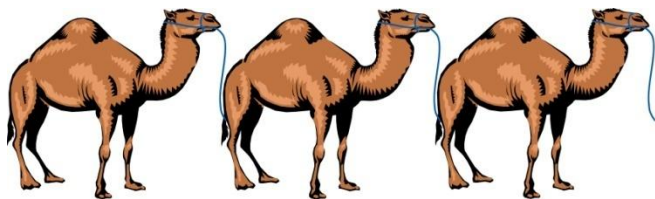
Twin Cities International Elementary School  
 277 12<sup>th</sup> Ave N. Mpls. MN 55401  
 Phone 612.821.6470  
 Fax 612.821.6477  
[www.twincitiesinternationalschool.org](http://www.twincitiesinternationalschool.org)

## State MCA Reading by Proficiency Level and Enrollment

## State MCA Math by Proficiency Level and Enrollment



\*We have included the data back to 2006-2007 when the school changed leadership and data became a more central focus of the school.



Twin Cities International Elementary School

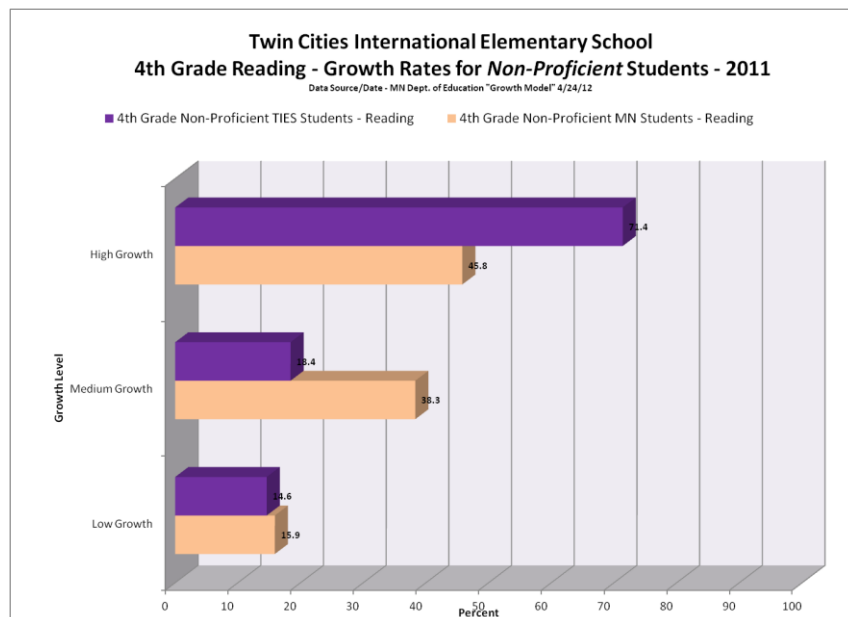
277 12<sup>th</sup> Ave N. Mpls. MN 55401

Phone 612.821.6470

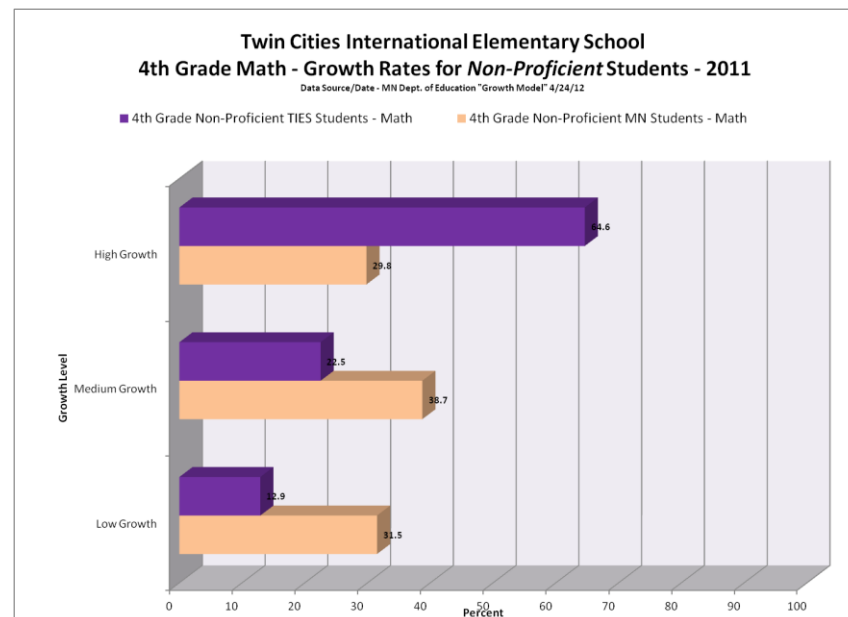
Fax 612.821.6477

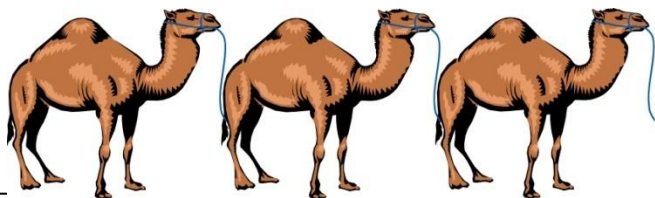
[www.twincitiesinternationalschool.org](http://www.twincitiesinternationalschool.org)

## State MCA Reading Growth Data



## State MCA Math Growth Data





Twin Cities International Elementary School

277 12<sup>th</sup> Ave N. Mpls. MN 55401

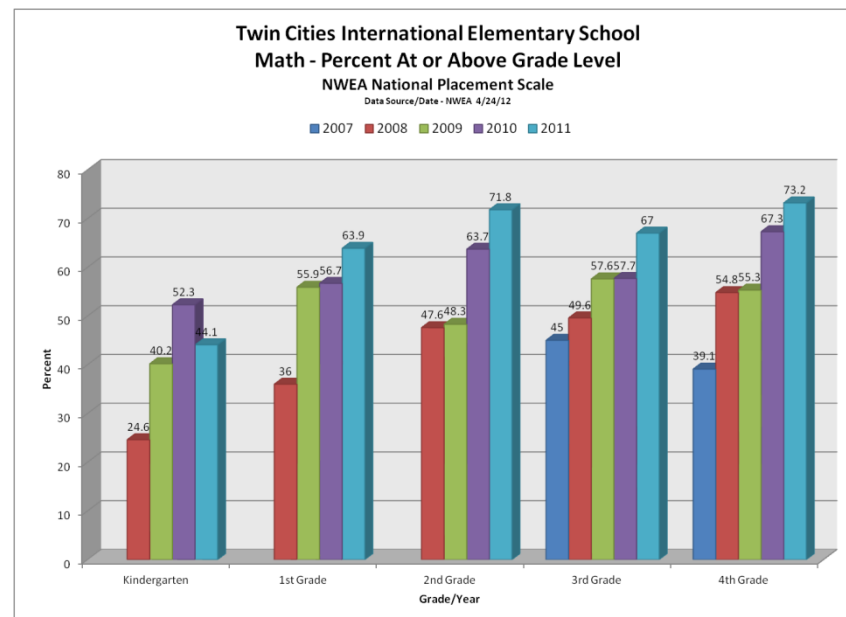
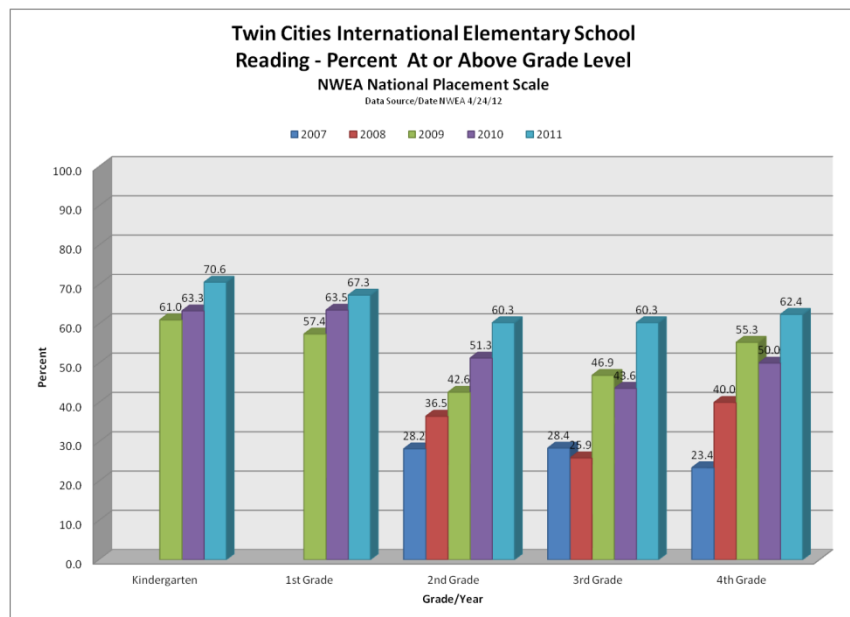
Phone 612.821.6470

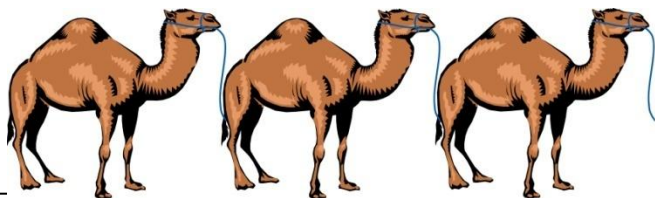
Fax 612.821.6477

[www.twincitiesinternationalschool.org](http://www.twincitiesinternationalschool.org)

## NWEA MAP Reading Trends

## NWEA MAP Math Trends





Twin Cities International Elementary School

277 12<sup>th</sup> Ave N. Mpls. MN 55401

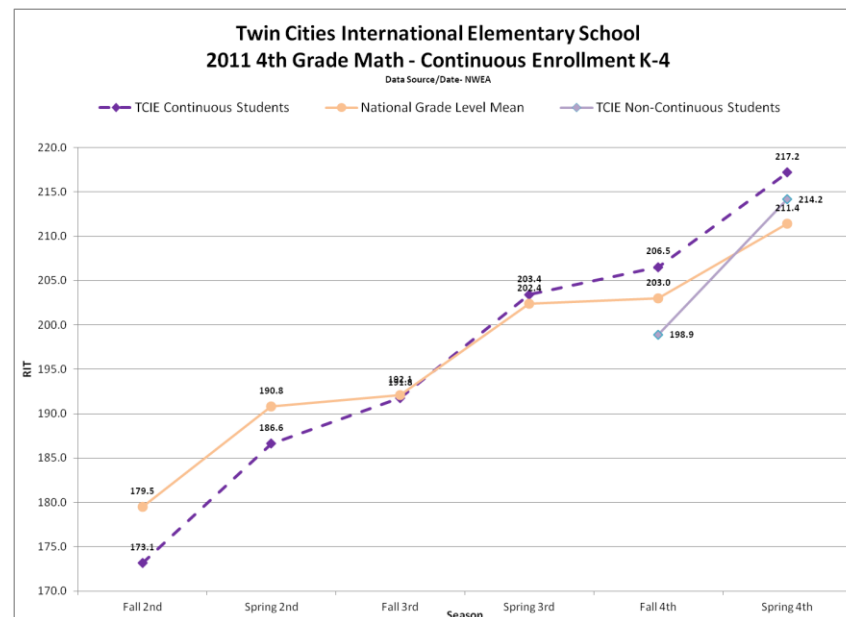
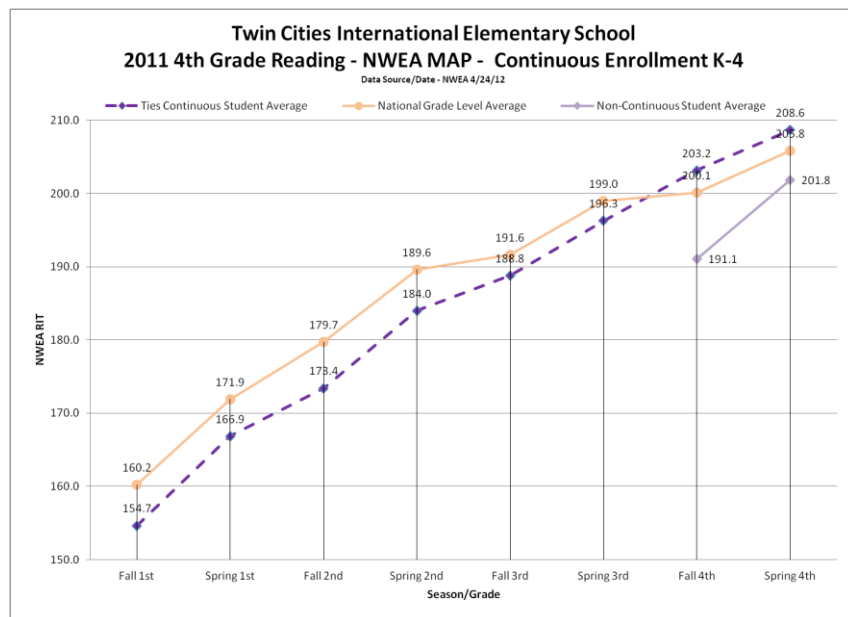
Phone 612.821.6470

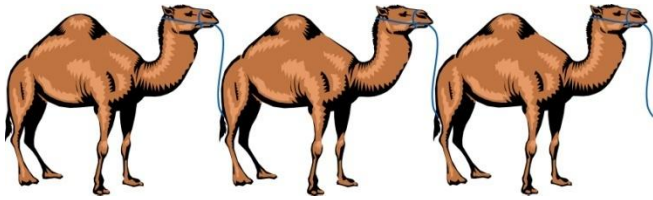
Fax 612.821.6477

[www.twincitiesinternationalschool.org](http://www.twincitiesinternationalschool.org)

## NWEA MAP Reading Gap Closure

## NWEA MAP Math Gap Closure

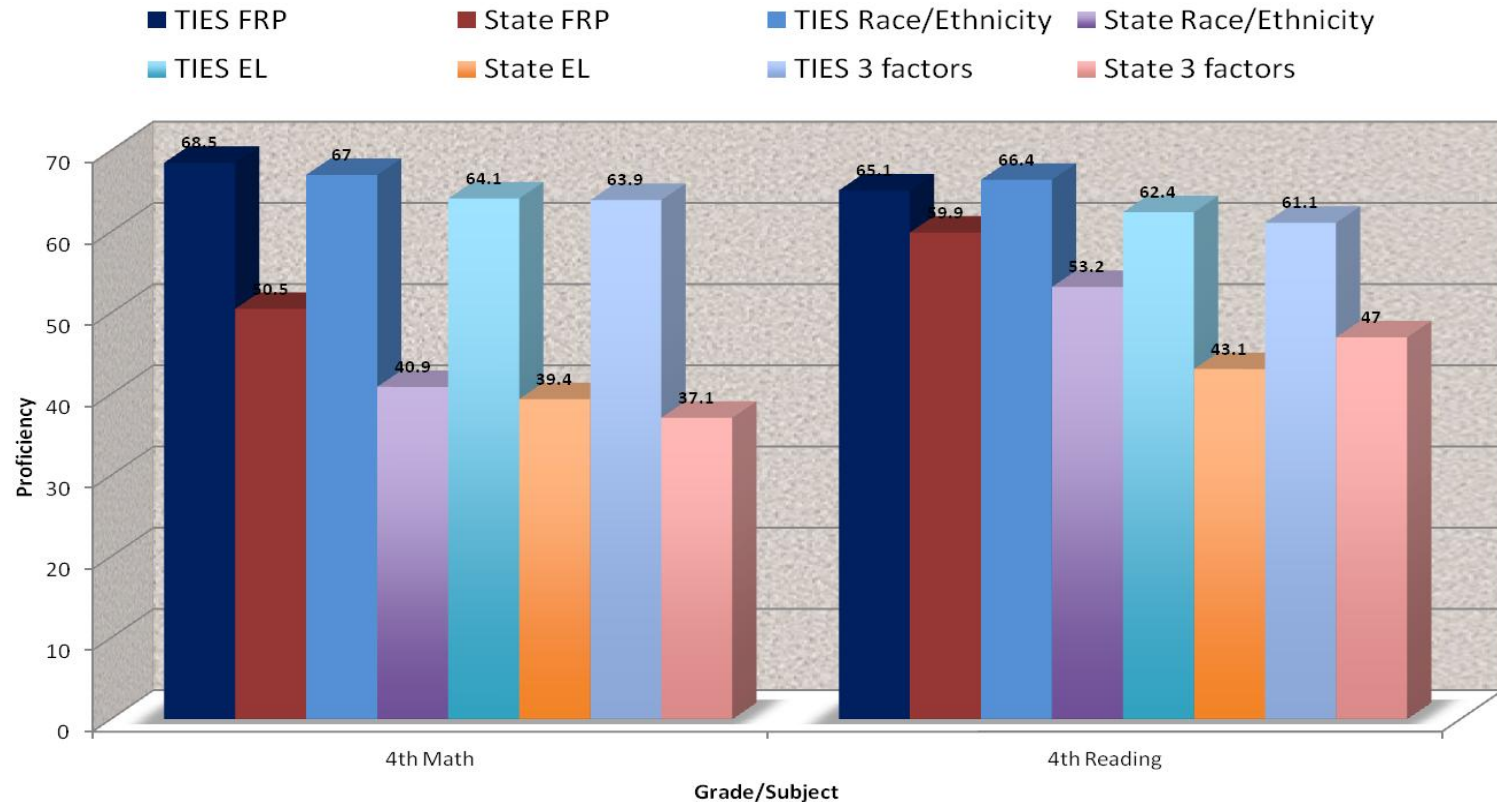


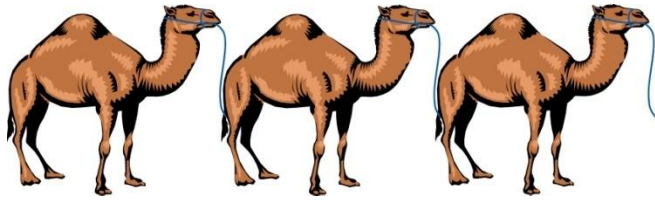


Twin Cities International Elementary School  
 277 12<sup>th</sup> Ave N. Mpls. MN 55401  
 Phone 612.821.6470  
 Fax 612.821.6477  
[www.twincitiesinternationalschool.org](http://www.twincitiesinternationalschool.org)

## Twin Cities Elementary School 2011 Accountability Proficiency Comparison TIES/State - 4th Grade

Data Source/Date- MN Dept of Education 4/24/12





Twin Cities International Elementary School

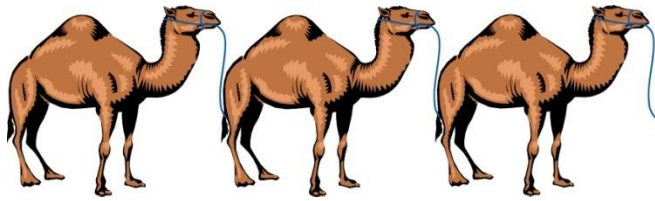
277 12<sup>th</sup> Ave N. Mpls. MN 55401

Phone 612.821.6470

Fax 612.821.6477

[www.twincitiesinternationalschool.org](http://www.twincitiesinternationalschool.org)

# School Programming



Twin Cities International Elementary School  
277 12<sup>th</sup> Ave N. Mpls. MN 55401  
Phone 612.821.6470  
Fax 612.821.6477  
[www.twincitiesinternationalschool.org](http://www.twincitiesinternationalschool.org)

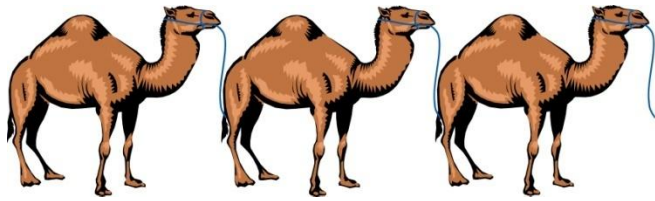
## **Timeline of Program Development**

### **2007-2008:**

- Large population of staff new to the school
- Addition of a reading teacher and reading paraprofessional to the staff
- Trained staff in the SIOP (Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol) method for best practices in English language instruction
- ENVOY classroom management training (Michael Grinder)

### **2008-2009:**

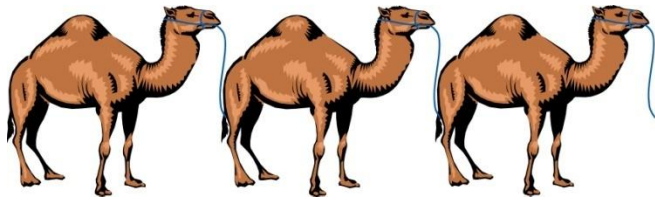
- Sent many staff to various trainings as “Train the Trainer” model
- Redesign of curriculum to focus on standards based education
- Professional learning communities (PLC) began
- Added literacy components to math program
- Adopted new social studies and science curricula that also had a strong focus on content literacy
- Began focus on differentiated instruction & creating Individual Learning Plans for ALL students
- Used our reading program, Success for All, with fidelity and analyzed student data with teacher input to enhance the program for the future years.
- Developed a New Teacher Seminar



Twin Cities International Elementary School  
277 12<sup>th</sup> Ave N. Mpls. MN 55401  
Phone 612.821.6470  
Fax 612.821.6477  
[www.twincitiesinternationalschool.org](http://www.twincitiesinternationalschool.org)

## **2009-2010:**

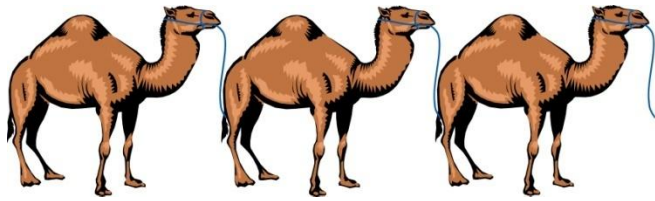
- Pushed kindergarten students into the 1<sup>st</sup> grade component of the Success for All program as they demonstrated their readiness for the advanced literacy work.
- Began using the MAP for primary assessment for 1<sup>st</sup> graders and kindergarteners
- Implemented DIBELS reading fluency assessment across the grades
- Piloted a Response to Intervention program with our 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students, which was implemented across grades 1-4 in 2010.
- Implemented Individual Learning Plans for each student
- Began collecting and analyzing progress on specific areas of need to assist with differentiation in the classroom
- Trained staff on common formative assessments for implementation beginning in 2010.
- Data coordinator meets weekly with grade-level teams to facilitate conversations regarding student data and planning for instruction
- Attended professional learning community seminar and began implementation of PLCs



Twin Cities International Elementary School  
277 12<sup>th</sup> Ave N. Mpls. MN 55401  
Phone 612.821.6470  
Fax 612.821.6477  
[www.twincitiesinternationalschool.org](http://www.twincitiesinternationalschool.org)

## **2010-2011:**

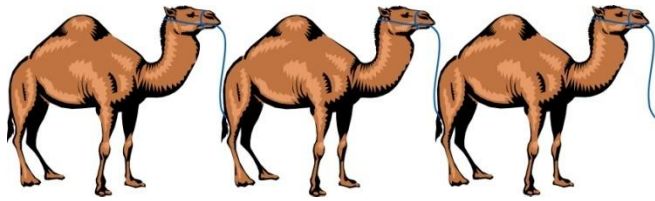
- Identified Power Standards / Essential Learnings
- Wrote state standards in student friendly language called learning targets
- Implemented common formative assessments (CFA) in reading and math
- Restructured Individual Learning Plans for teacher ease
- Created a more frequent assessment program utilizing pre- and post-test data along with data for progress monitoring
- Students began to take ownership of their learning and set goals and tracked progress on those targets
- Created instructional cycles, using knowledge from staff development of *Total Instructional Alignment* and Effective Schools research.
- Made available to families a variety of web-based literacy programs that students can use at home or from any computer.
- Attended PLC seminar with more staff members



Twin Cities International Elementary School  
277 12<sup>th</sup> Ave N. Mpls. MN 55401  
Phone 612.821.6470  
Fax 612.821.6477  
[www.twincitiesinternationalschool.org](http://www.twincitiesinternationalschool.org)

## 2011-2012:

- Aligned the new Common Core State Standards both horizontally and vertically
- Created an integrated approach to standards-based education
- Restructured our report cards to reflect standards-based learning
- Merged the Individual Learning Plan with the school report card
- Created local databases in addition to our data warehouse solution to assist us with data analysis
- Data coordinator meets weekly with grade-level teams to facilitate conversations regarding student data and planning for instruction
- Provided substantial meeting time for teams to do CFA and standards work
- Staff book study on *Total Instructional Alignment*, by Lisa Carter and *Power Standards* by Larry Ainsworth
- Attended PLC seminar with more staff members



Twin Cities International Elementary School  
277 12<sup>th</sup> Ave N. Mpls. MN 55401  
Phone 612.821.6470  
Fax 612.821.6477  
[www.twincitiesinternationalschool.org](http://www.twincitiesinternationalschool.org)

## **Curriculum:**

The school curriculum is the state standards, and not the adopted textbooks. Textbook programs are considered materials to support the instruction of the standards.

### *Supporting Materials:*

Harcourt Math

Foss Science Kits

Scott Forsman Science

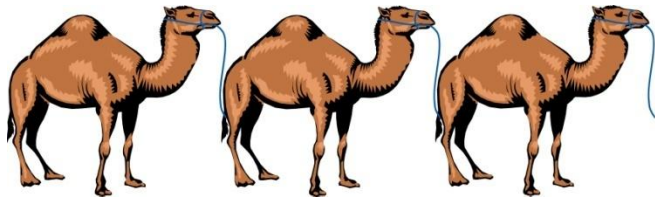
Success For All Reading Program

Houghton Mifflin Social Studies

Zaner-Bloser Handwriting

Time For Kids

National Geographic for  
Kids

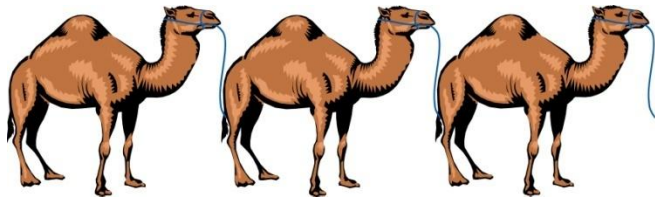


Twin Cities International Elementary School  
277 12<sup>th</sup> Ave N. Mpls. MN 55401  
Phone 612.821.6470  
Fax 612.821.6477  
[www.twincitiesinternationalschool.org](http://www.twincitiesinternationalschool.org)

## **Assessment:**

TIES uses a multiple measure assessment plan to triangulate data used to inform instructional practices.

- Measurement of Academic Progress (MAP) assessment for reading & math in grades 2-4
- Primary MAP assessment for reading & math in grades K & 1.
- Success For All (SFA) reading program assessments
- DIBELS reading fluency assessment
- State MCA-II reading assessment
- State MCA-III math assessment
- Students (gr. 3 & 4) who are in need of special services, as indicated by an Individual Education Plan (IEP), are assessed using the state approved MTAS assessment
- English Learner (EL) students (gr. K-4) are also assessed for English proficiency using the state adopted ACCESS test or the W-APT for identification
- Common formative assessments



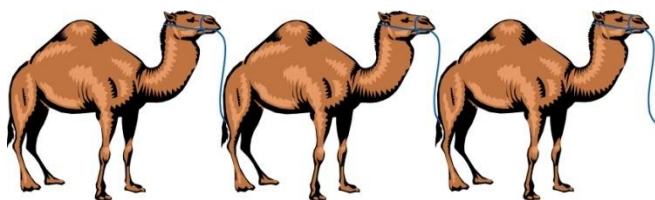
Twin Cities International Elementary School  
277 12<sup>th</sup> Ave N. Mpls. MN 55401  
Phone 612.821.6470  
Fax 612.821.6477  
[www.twincitiesinternationalschool.org](http://www.twincitiesinternationalschool.org)

## **Intervention:**

Intervention programs are blended into the school day, allowing for 30 minutes of specific learning target intervention for students not meeting the target as well as for students at grade level and enrichment intervention for students working above grade level. Students attend a “Masterminds” class four days a week with rotating classes every two to three weeks.

Interventions are created by teachers using the state standards as a guide. Identification for these sessions come from teachers analyzing common formative assessment data from the instructional cycle to determine which students need additional work on specific targets or enrichment work. These groups are formed using the research-based framework of Response to Intervention (RtI), following a tiered support system.

Teachers are selected to teach specific skills based on data related to current and past student growth and achievement for those standards. Students are re-assessed at the end of the Masterminds session to determine progress on the learning target. The following slides illustrate some of the data collection processes and analysis teachers use to determine Masterminds groups.



Twin Cities International Elementary School

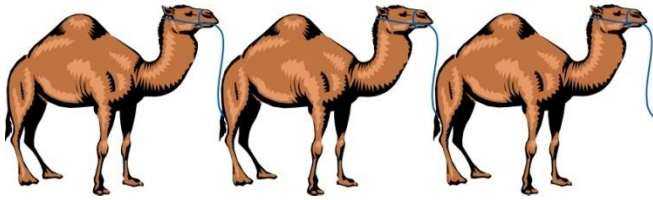
277 12<sup>th</sup> Ave N. Mpls. MN 55401

Phone 612.821.6470

Fax 612.821.6477

[www.twincitiesinternationalschool.org](http://www.twincitiesinternationalschool.org)

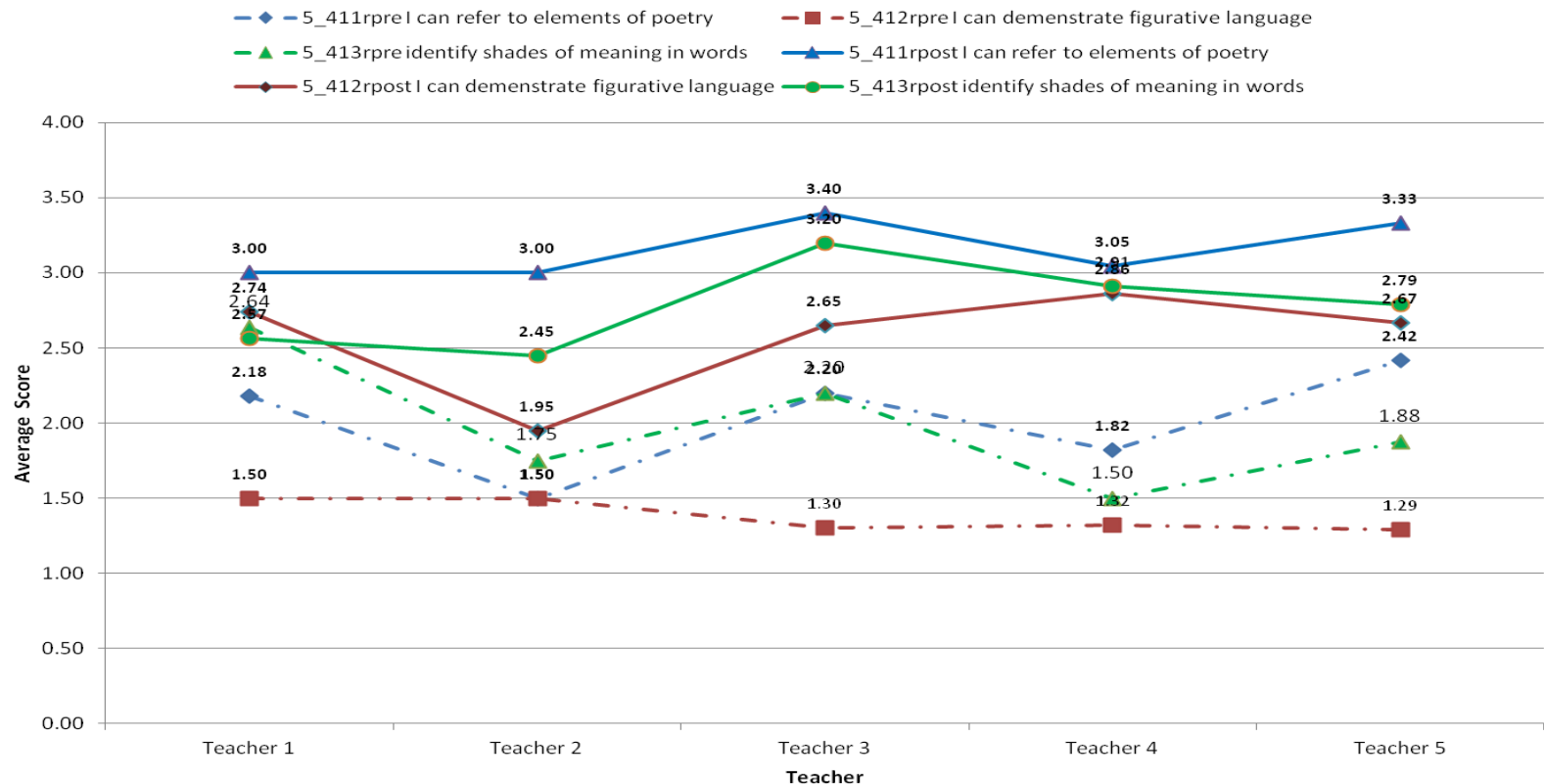
Student Name	5_211rpost retell a story using beg mid and end w details	5_212rpos t find the moral of the story	5_213rpost past tense verbs when writing or speaking	5_214rpost ask questions by using key details in text	5_221MPOST I can identify plane figures	5_222MPOST I can describe plane figures	5_223MPOST I can sort plane figures	5_224MPOST I can identify solid figures	5_225MPOST I can describe solid figures	5_226MPOST I can sort solid figures	5_227MPOST use add and sub to find information for tables, graphs	5_228MPOST use add and sub to create tables, graphs
Student 1	2	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	4	4	4
Student 2	4	3	4	4	4	4	4	3	3	4	2	4
Student 3	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	2
Student 4	4	3	3	2	4	4	4	4	4	3	4	2
Student 5	4	4	4	3	3	4	4	4	1	1	4	2
Student 6	3	3	3	2	4	4	4	4	2	3	2	2
Student 7	4	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	3	4	4	3
Student 8	4	2	4	2	4	4	4	3	2	4	2	1
Student 9	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	4	4	3
Student 10	2	3	2	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	4	3
Student 11	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Student 12	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	2	4	3	4
Student 13	3	4	4	3	3	4	4	4	3	4	2	3
Student 14	2	4	3	2	4	4	4	4	2	3	4	2
Student 15	2	3	2	3	4	4	4	4	3	4	3	1
Student 16	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	1	3	4	2
Student 17		3	3	1	4	4	4	3	1	3	2	1
Student 18	3	4	4	1	4	4	4	4	3	2	2	3
Student 19	3	4	4	3	4	4	4	4	3	4	4	4
Student 20	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	2	4	4	4
Student 21		4	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	4	4	3
Student 22	4	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	1	3	3	2
Student 23	4	3	4	1	4	4	4	4	3	4	4	4
Student 24	2	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	4	3	4

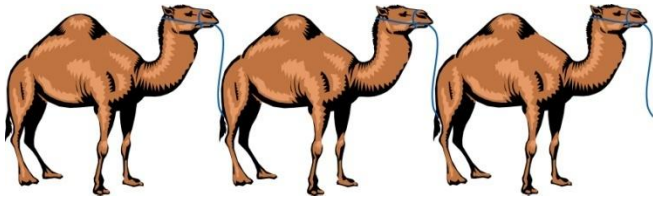


Twin Cities International Elementary School  
 277 12<sup>th</sup> Ave N. Mpls. MN 55401  
 Phone 612.821.6470  
 Fax 612.821.6477  
[www.twincitiesinternationalschool.org](http://www.twincitiesinternationalschool.org)

## Twin Cities International Elementary School Cycle 5 Pre and Post Average - 4th Reading

Data Source/Date TIES Database 4/24/12

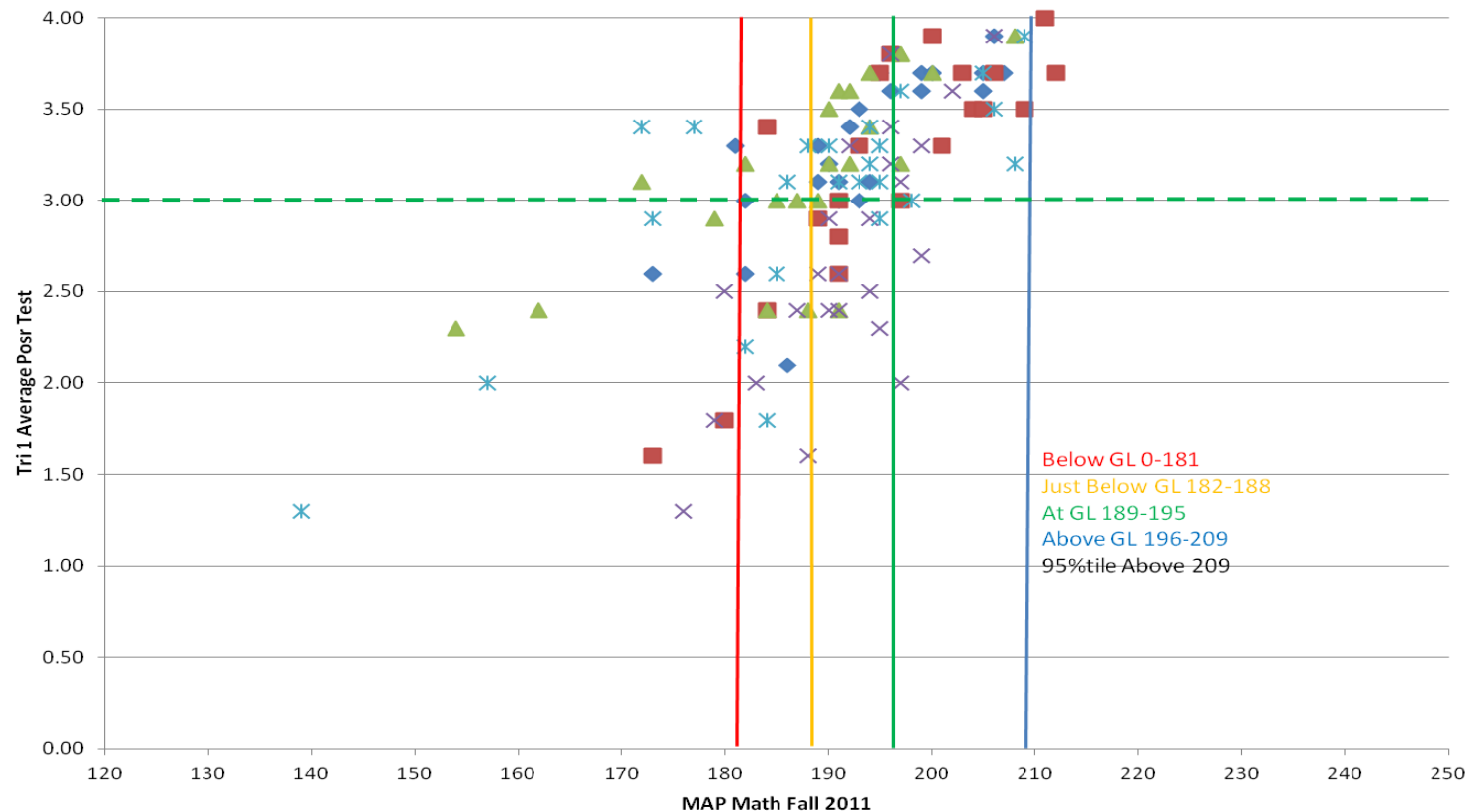


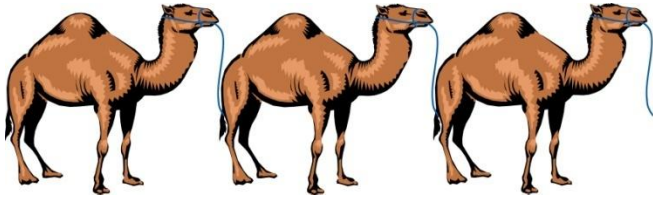


Twin Cities International Elementary School  
277 12<sup>th</sup> Ave N. Mpls. MN 55401  
Phone 612.821.6470  
Fax 612.821.6477  
[www.twincitiesinternationalschool.org](http://www.twincitiesinternationalschool.org)

### Twin Cities International Elementary School Math -3rd Grade MAP/Post-test Average -Tri 1

Data Source - NWEA and TIES Access Database





Twin Cities International Elementary School

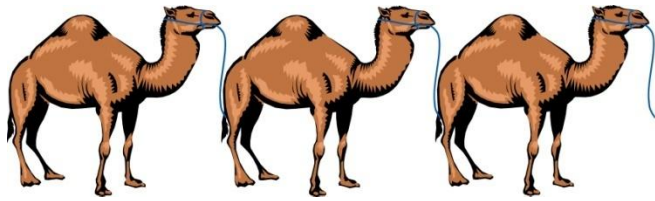
277 12<sup>th</sup> Ave N. Mpls. MN 55401

Phone 612.821.6470

Fax 612.821.6477

[www.twincitiesinternationalschool.org](http://www.twincitiesinternationalschool.org)

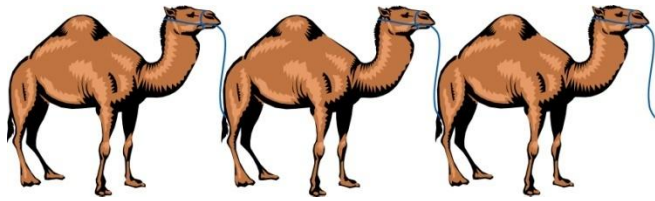
# Professional Development



Twin Cities International Elementary School  
277 12<sup>th</sup> Ave N. Mpls. MN 55401  
Phone 612.821.6470  
Fax 612.821.6477  
[www.twincitiesinternationalschool.org](http://www.twincitiesinternationalschool.org)

- Workshop week (1 ½ to 2 weeks)
- New Teacher Seminar (1 wk for first Trimester)
- Weekly staff development (Mon & Wed – 1 hr. each)
- Prep times (Tues & Thurs. – two 45 min. meetings)
- Professional development days (3-4 full days per year)
- End of year PD (2 full days)

Our ongoing professional development is focused in four areas – standards, ELL best practices, data collection/goal setting for students and RtI and early intervention services for at-risk students.

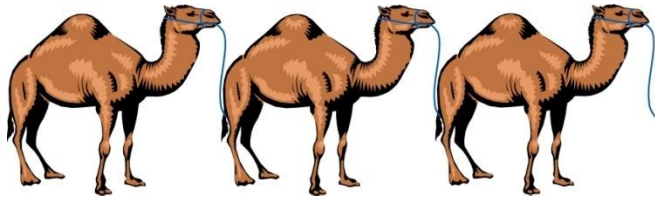


Twin Cities International Elementary School  
277 12<sup>th</sup> Ave N. Mpls. MN 55401  
Phone 612.821.6470  
Fax 612.821.6477  
[www.twincitiesinternationalschool.org](http://www.twincitiesinternationalschool.org)

TIES has adopted an extensive professional growth plan model based on the research from Charlotte Danielson's four domains: planning and preparation; classroom environment; instruction; & professional responsibilities.

This model encompasses peer and administrative observations, conversations surrounding guiding questions for the four domains, placement on a rubric for each component, development of growth plans, research and action to implement goals defined in the growth plan, and revisiting the rubric placements in a reasonable timeframe with which to measure/observe growth.

This process has created many professional opportunities for teachers and other educational staff to directly impact the learning program of the school. In addition, the school board is comprised of a majority of teachers, and these teachers participate in summer professional development to assist in the design of the school's learning program.



Twin Cities International Elementary School

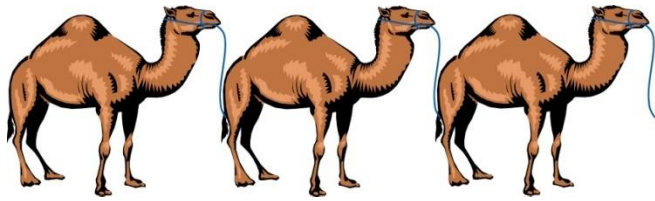
277 12<sup>th</sup> Ave N. Mpls. MN 55401

Phone 612.821.6470

Fax 612.821.6477

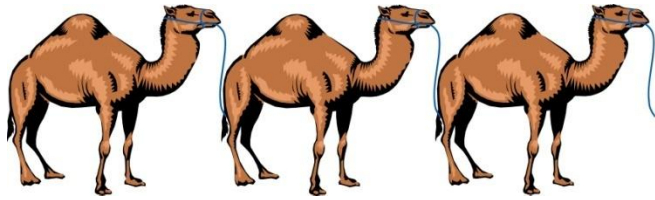
[www.twincitiesinternationalschool.org](http://www.twincitiesinternationalschool.org)

# Parent & Community Involvement



Twin Cities International Elementary School  
277 12<sup>th</sup> Ave N. Mpls. MN 55401  
Phone 612.821.6470  
Fax 612.821.6477  
[www.twincitiesinternationalschool.org](http://www.twincitiesinternationalschool.org)

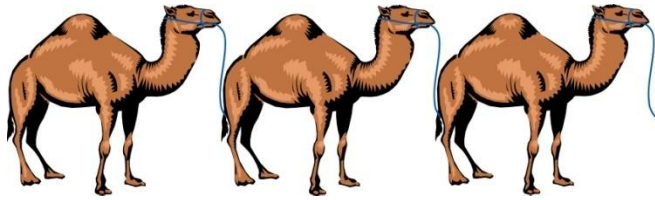
- Encourage the importance of education
- 95% of TIES parents attend conferences twice a year
- Involved in goal setting and the ILP
- Supportive of concerns
- Attend parent meetings in large numbers
- Serve as Board members
- Participate in homework tutoring centers



Twin Cities International Elementary School  
277 12<sup>th</sup> Ave N. Mpls. MN 55401  
Phone 612.821.6470  
Fax 612.821.6477  
[www.twincitiesinternationalschool.org](http://www.twincitiesinternationalschool.org)

## Cultural Sensitivities

- Student dress
- Parent communication
- Staff members from the community
- Accommodation for religious beliefs and observances
- Food service
- Adult education program



Twin Cities International Elementary School

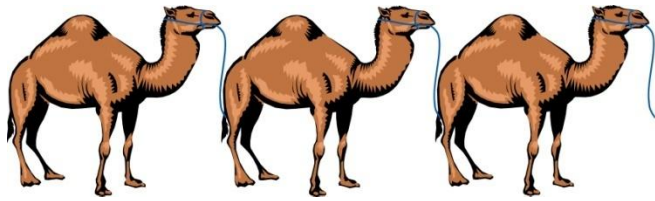
277 12<sup>th</sup> Ave N. Mpls. MN 55401

Phone 612.821.6470

Fax 612.821.6477

[www.twincitiesinternationalschool.org](http://www.twincitiesinternationalschool.org)

# Summary

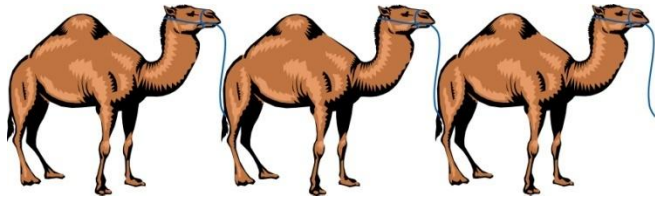


Twin Cities International Elementary School  
277 12<sup>th</sup> Ave N. Mpls. MN 55401  
Phone 612.821.6470  
Fax 612.821.6477  
[www.twincitiesinternationalschool.org](http://www.twincitiesinternationalschool.org)

Some of the major innovative practices implemented over the past four years and currently set in place for the 2011-2012 school year are as follows:

- Individualized Learning Plans
- Common prep times for teaming, addressing individual student needs, and building teaching interventions
- Data collection and analysis
- Using data to drive instruction
- Goal setting based on a mind-set of continuous improvement
- SIOP and structured reading interventions
- RTI (Response to Intervention)
- Creating common assessments

These innovative practices have been implemented in accordance with the Twin Cities Elementary School's strategic vision for improving student academic achievement. Our primary focus is on learning. Being in accordance with various professional learning community models, we emphasize a collaborative teaming model in our school, holding high expectations for all students, in which continuous improvement and essential learning outcomes are results-based.

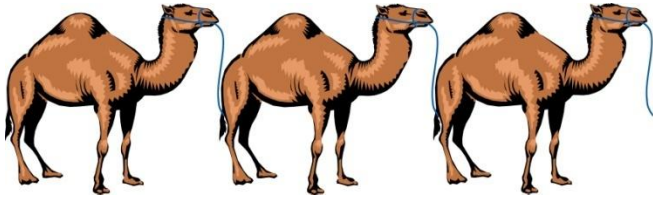


Twin Cities International Elementary School  
277 12<sup>th</sup> Ave N. Mpls. MN 55401  
Phone 612.821.6470  
Fax 612.821.6477  
[www.twincitiesinternationalschool.org](http://www.twincitiesinternationalschool.org)

The other half of our innovative practices put in place to ensure our strategic vision comes to fruition is:

**An entire teaching staff that is dedicated to:**

- Commit to learning for all
- Build shared vision and values
- Work in collaborative teams
- Establish essential outcomes
- Create common assessments
- Examine student data to improve instruction
- Commit to continuous improvement



Twin Cities International Elementary School  
277 12<sup>th</sup> Ave N. Mpls. MN 55401  
Phone 612.821.6470  
Fax 612.821.6477  
[www.twincitiesinternationalschool.org](http://www.twincitiesinternationalschool.org)

Thank you for your time.

A Special “thank you” to the National Charter  
School Resource Center and Peggie Garcia for  
including us in this project.

Q & A

# Questions?



Raise your hand or enter your question in the chat box  
on the left side of your screen.

# Thank you for participating.

- Learn more about future webinars in the ELL series hosted by the National Charter School Resource Center:  
<http://registration.airprojects.org/NCSRCELL/register.aspx>
- This webinar will be archived at the following website:  
<http://www.charterschoolcenter.org/webinars/>
- Please share your feedback with us through the evaluation.

# National **Charter School** **Resource** Center

---

at American Institutes for Research

## **National Charter School Resource Center**

1000 Thomas Jefferson Street NW

Washington, DC 20007-3835

Phone: 877-277-2744

Website: [www.charterschoolcenter.org](http://www.charterschoolcenter.org)

E-Mail: [charterschoolcenter@air.org](mailto:charterschoolcenter@air.org)



**ED.gov**

The National Charter School Resource Center is funded by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Innovation and Improvement and administered by American Institutes for Research, under contract number ED-04-CO-0109/0004.